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Book Reviews

Life in the Roman World of Nero and St. Paul. By T. G. TUCKER, Professor of Classical Philology in the University of Melbourne. New York: Macmillan, 1910. Pp. xix+453. $2.50.

Those who have read Mr. Tucker's previous work, *Life in Ancient Athens,* will welcome this second volume and, having read it, will not be disappointed. While it shows wide and discriminating scholarship, it makes its appeal frankly to those who have no technical knowledge or training in classical matters. The author makes no pedantic show of learning. There is not a footnote in the book, no citations from foreign languages, no technical terms. Every topic is dealt with in the plainest, and oftentimes in colloquial, English. There is constant comparison with related topics in modern life, so that the reader forgets the great gulf of time and space which actually separates him from the scenes and life which the author is describing. To quote a single instance, in the chapter on holidays and amusements we read:

> Our own Sundays and weekly half-holidays make together seventy-eight days, and if we add to these the holidays at Christmas, Easter, and other Bank and public "closings," we shall find that our annual breaks in the working year are not very far from the Roman total, however differently they may be distributed. The difference between us and them lies rather in the way in which the holidays were employed.

We find everywhere a conservative, sane, and sensible view of Roman life. The picture is not taken from the satirist and cynic alone; the alarmist and misrepresenting muck-raker have little place. But from every possible source material has been drawn and presented through the medium of common-sense. The author also insists upon portraying the life of the rank and file of the Roman people as well as that of the nobles who too often occupy the ancient writer's and the modern historian's chief attention.

As the name of the book implies, Roman life and Jewish and Christian history which center around the great apostle are co-ordinated and interwoven, so that the narrative becomes of great value to students of the New Testament and the early church as well as to classical students.

Two plans adopted by Mr. Tucker are of especial value in simplifying and vivifying the narrative. First, he tells his whole story from the standpoint of one date, approximately 64 A.D. We are spared that breathless leaping from period to period which spoils so many narratives. And second, the story is, so far as the actual life of the private citizen is concerned, the description of the daily life in all possible situations of an individual man, not indeed a historical character, but none the less real to us.

Among the twenty-three chapters, all of which are fresh and illuminating, the following may be named as especially interesting and helpful: "Extent

and Security of the Empire," "Travel within the Empire," "Social Day of a Roman Aristocrat," "Life in the Middle and Lower Classes," "Holidays and Amusements," "Children and Education," "Roman Religion," "Study and Scientific Knowledge," "Philosophy."

The book is handsomely printed in large, clear type, with plentiful illustrations and a good index, and is almost entirely free from typographical errors.

F. J. MILLER

Index Verborum Vergilianus. By MONROE NICHOLS WETMORE, PH.D., Assistant Professor of Latin in Williams College. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1911. Pp. viii+554. $4.00, postage 26 cents.

This is a "complete word-index to the acknowledged works of Vergil, the *Eclogues*, the *Georgics*, and the *Aeneid*, and to the poems usually included in the *Appendix Vergiliana*." It is made on the basis of Ribbeck's text edition of 1895, but includes variants from Ribbeck's critical edition of 1894 and from other standard critical editions as well. Every occurrence of every word is given in the form in which it occurs, and these are arranged in the usual paradigm order of the several words. After each word is printed a numeral indicating the number of times of its occurrence.

Of the *Indices* hitherto available, the only one which can come into possible comparison with the present volume is the excellent and professedly complete *Index* of Heyne, published as the sixth volume of his large edition of Vergil. The great advantages of the modern *Index*, however, are, primarily, the access to the better established texts of Vergil, the much improved press work, and all the convenient and helpful devices which the modern editor has contributed to his book.

Dr. Wetmore has successfully accomplished a task requiring unlimited patience and scholarly accuracy, and has produced a fresh, delightfully clear and usable index which will be gratefully received by all Vergilian scholars.

We learn from the author's preface that this book covers only a part of the original scope of his work, which was to produce a complete *Lexicon Vergilianum*. An announcement of this intention was circulated among scholars throughout the world in 1904 in order to ascertain whether anyone else was planning such a book. No hint of such intention was received from anyone. The work accordingly progressed until about one thousand pages of manuscript were ready for the press, when, in 1909, the announcement was received that H. Merguet, to whom a copy of Dr. Wetmore's circular had been sent in 1905, was about to begin the publication of a *Lexicon zu Vergilius*. Obviously there was not room in the world for two such books, and the American work was accordingly given up.

This is a striking and painful illustration of what happens all too often in the world of scholarship. There seems to be no such thing as the acquisition